QTC Magazine

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia

August 2026

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Notice of RASA AGM

It's Memberships Renewal Time

VL2J Lord Howe Island Expedition

Trends in Amateur Radio 2026

When is a Tower not a Tower?

New! Morse Code With a Purpose

Tell'em They're Dreaming!

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Right - Yet another suggestion for an “on The Air” activity.
Surely this one requires a companion WOTA?

Publication Information

Contact: info@vkradioamateurs.org
Website: http://vkradioamateurs.org

QTC is a publication of The Radio Amateur Society of Australia

ABN: 64 687 227 446 (RASA)

QTC is published monthly. If you would like to receive your copy you can either visit our web site to download or send us an email and we’ll put you on our distribution list.

You are welcome to join RASA or simply make a donation to support our work.

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Cover picture credit:

An arial shot looking towards Lord Howe Island, by Chris Chapman VK3QB.

Contributing Items For QTCMagazine

QTC Magazine welcomes contributions for future editions. When planning to submit an article, please read our submission guidelines first.

Following the guidelines will save you and the editing team a lot of time and effort. The guidelines are HERE

WHAT MAKES A
SUCCESSFUL
AMATEUR RADIO EVENT?
Planning, People, and Passion—The Formula for Events That Inspire and Make an Impact.
AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATION CONNECTS US
CLEAR PURPOSE
Know the goal. Stay focused.
STRONG PLANNING
Prepare well. Operate with confidence.
TEAMWORK & INCLUSIVITY
Mentor, support, and welcome all.
ADAPTABILITY
Be ready to adjust. Keep the event on track.
ENGAGEMENT & FUN
Celebrate milestones. Build lasting memories.
COMMUNITY CONNECTION
Work together. Make a difference.
MORE THAN RADIO. IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE, CONNECTIONS, AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE.
AMATEUR RADI
SERVICE • SKILL • COMMUNITY
VK7ABC

Earlier this year, Sue, my YL, and I decided to take a road trip south to soak in the sights and to participate in the Antennapalooza weekend. (See the report in QTC May 2026) This event is organised by Ian VK3BUF and Dianne VK3JDI, who have been successfully hosting Antennapalooza for a decade. The journey from the Hunter Valley to Drouin West was a pleasure, and the 10th Anniversary Antennapalooza weekend certainly lived up to its reputation as an exciting and successful Amateur Radio event. It was Sue's first experience with Amateur Radio, and she genuinely enjoyed it.

It made me ponder, ***What Makes a Successful Amateur Radio Event?***

Amateur radio events, whether symposiums, field days, contests, or meetups, bring together a unique blend of ***technical skill, social interaction,*** and ***curiosity***. But what separates a forgettable gathering from the memorable ones?

Why do people attend?

Primary reasons for attending include:

- **Socialising, Networking & Camaraderie:** Events are central hubs for making friends within the amateur radio community, exchanging ideas, and sharing pastimes.
- **Workshops & Education:** Individuals attend to learn about technical developments, practical demonstrations and the many facets of the hobby. How to do things and solve problems. Group construction projects.
- **Flea Markets & Shopping:** Some are simple car boot sales and a local trader or two, along with a coffee cart and a BBQ. Or massive gatherings that attract attendees internationally.
- **Contesting & Awards:** Field days, contests and activations where enthusiasts test their gear and skills by attempting to make as many long-distance contacts. Some events are geared up for newcomers to the activities.
- **Insert your Reasons and Ideas here:** Just remember it must be a blend of *social interaction, technical skill,* and *curiosity*

Okay - we have reasons to attend, but it is more than just that.

Clear Purpose

At the heart of every successful amateur radio event is a clear goal, purpose or theme. Identify and understand your target audience. The size of the event will be determined on the number of attendees and displays etc. Know your purpose... whether it is a contest weekend, or a themed symposium, or a field day or similar, are you introducing new activities or helping others strengthen their knowledge? Is it lecture mode or a hands on demonstration? Hands on works best! A fine balance of social and technical is the key.

Understand the level that will engage your audience - Too simple or too complex and you will lose them. Repetitive themes and attendee numbers decline. Allow plenty of time for social interaction… Food brings people together.

Planning

The amount and detail required is relative to the size, complexity and duration of your event. Event organisation requires careful coordination, teamwork, and attention to both logistical and community details. A well-planned event not only draws radio hobbyists but also strengthens the bonds within the amateur radio community, offering opportunities for learning, trading, and socialising. New people will be looking carefully where they fit in.

Team

At the heart of every successful event is a dedicated organising team. This group should include individuals with complementary skills: logistics coordinators, finance managers, communications leads, and volunteer supervisors. Clear role definitions prevent overlap and ensure accountability. Regular meetings, preferably starting several months in advance, help keep planning on track. Good communication tools—shared calendars, group chats, or project management software—are essential to keep everyone aligned. Your organisation may qualify for a free Google workplace account. Again the size and complexity of your team will be determined by the size and complexity of the event.

Finance

A well-structured budget is essential for all planning decisions. Common sources of income usually consist of admission fees, vendor table rentals, raffles, and sponsorships. On the expense side, significant costs may include venue rental, insurance, marketing, and materials like signage or badges. Keeping a clear accounting system is crucial for monitoring expenses and ensuring that funds are utilised wisely. Some clubs organise an annual event as a fundraiser to support their operational costs, with any surplus allocated for their next event. It is vital to think about the implications of not meeting your financial goals, or even better, consider ways to lower event costs for a more achievable outcome. Additionally, many clubs set up a small contingency fund to manage unforeseen expenses.

Venue

The venue sets the tone for the entire event. It should be large enough to accommodate vendor tables, demonstrations, and attendee flow while offering adequate parking and accessibility for those who have limited mobility. Proximity to public transportation is a plus. Organisers should verify power availability for

equipment demonstrations. Accessibility prior to the day for setting up and post for cleaning up. Booking early is vital, as suitable venues are often in high demand.

Catering

Although not the main attraction, good catering enhances the experience. Whether through professional vendors or club-run food stands, offering affordable and varied options keeps attendees comfortable and engaged throughout the day. Food handling standards must be respected. Providing options like coffee stations or snack bars can also generate additional revenue.

Insurance

Event insurance protects both the organisers and attendees from liability in case of accidents or property damage. Organisers should consult with insurance providers to tailor coverage to the event's scale, including public liability, equipment damage, and cancellation clauses. Proof of insurance is frequently required by venues before contracts are finalised, making it an early planning priority.

Safety

Safety considerations extend beyond insurance. The organising team must ensure that fire exits are marked, emergency contacts are posted, and first aid services are available on-site. Electrical safety is particularly important at events due to the large number of radios and power supplies in use. Clear protocols for crowd control and equipment setup minimise risks. Appoint a First Aider just in case… and a Safety Officer to check setups and keep an eye out for possible issues.

Program

A diverse and well-structured program keeps attendees engaged. Typical elements include vendor exhibitions, technical forums, license testing sessions, swap meets, and guest lectures. Scheduling should balance educational content with social and trading opportunities, leaving time for attendees to explore exhibits. Sometimes less is best as things tend to run over and time quickly vanishes. Printing and distributing a program guide, either digitally or on paper, helps participants make the most of the day.

Promotion

Promotion determines turnout. Early and consistent marketing through amateur radio clubs, newsletters, social media, and radio nets ensures broad awareness. Using websites and online ticketing platforms can simplify registration and vendor sign-ups. Highlighting key attractions, such as special speakers or rare equipment, can boost interest. RASA's **QTC Magazine** runs A.R. event advertising for free! Word-of-mouth from past attendees remains one of the most effective promotional tools.

Event time

Now to see how the preparations work out and how adapt your team is in resolving issues on the fly…. Nothing is perfect! Some events use a Call-in frequency for those needing assistance in locating the venue and those who wish to liaise with fellow attendees. Keep the program on track… Remember to welcome participants, attendees and especially look after the newcomers who may feel a tad overwhelmed… They are our future!

Post Event

The Event Team should meet soon after and do a “Lessons learnt” etc. Make notes so that the next event organisers can learn for your experience.

Conclusion

Planning an event involves balancing fun and functionality through teamwork, financial discipline, and community spirit. By giving equal attention to logistics, safety, programming, and outreach, organisers can create an event that celebrates amateur radio’s enduring appeal while fostering learning, camaraderie, and innovation.

Make sure to provide **QTC Magazine** with a report on your event, as it will serve to motivate others to come to your next event. Your insights can motivate more attendees for future events!

Material for publishing QTC can be sent to **info@vkradioamateurs.org**.

The guidelines for submitting items for publication in QTC are HERE

Quick Check List

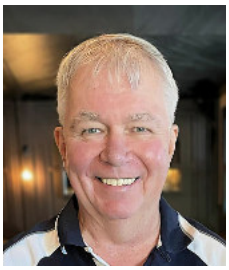
12 Months Out - Strategy, Secure venue and date; form core committee.

9 Months Out - Logistics, Open vendor registrations; launch website.

6 Months Out - Programming, Finalise keynote and forum speakers.

3 Months Out - Promotion, Heavy on-air and social media advertising.

1 Month Out - Fine-tuning, finalising floor plan, recruiting on the day volunteers.



On the day - Keep things flowing and enjoy!

Above all, have fun and I hope your next event is a great success!

Paul VK2APA, RASA President

Put Your Club Advertisement Here

Promote your club’s events and activities FREE in QTC

Here’s How:

- Create a Block Advertisement 160mm wide, 110mm High. This will give you a half page advertisement like this.
- Save it as a PDF
- Send it to info@vkradioamateurs.org by 1st of the month
- Re-send it (modified if you wish) every month as needed

In addition you may wish to contribute a story about your forthcoming event to complement your advertisement.

QTC
From the Editor

RASA is a National Representative body for Amateur Radio in Australia. We don't limit our resources to financial members or affiliated clubs. The work that we perform is for the benefit of the entire sector. A critical aspect of this work is tracking trends in our hobby, especially the entry point, which includes the examination process conducted by the ACMA and a raft of volunteer Assessors.

RASA distributes free brochures which explain the hobby to interested people and shows where to find out more about it. We have published a free study guide and regulations handbook to assist the hurdles of gaining a licence. We give free publicity to any group conducting training or exam events. We also have a free book helping new operators to get on the air.

Part of this activity is the identification of areas that can be better served by exams and education. For the past two years the ACMA has administered the examination and licensing process and this is going reasonably well. There are gaps and issues that could be improved, and the ACMA have signalled a consultation process for the performance of their Amateur exam operations in early 2027.

In order to meaningfully react to this process we thought it reasonable to request some basic statistical data on Amateur examinations. How many exams of what type have been conducted in each state. Success rates. Assessor activity. What percentage of listed Assessors have actually conducted exam events. These questions do not include any request for personal data.

RASA has written to the ACMA seeking this very basic information but have been provided with the following statement:

> *In relation to your request, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) does not publicly disclose assessment and assessor activity data of the type requested. This includes information relating to the number of examinations or assessments conducted, remote assessment statistics, and assessor participation rates, whether at a national or state/territory level.*
>
> *Accordingly, we are unable to provide the requested figures.*
>
> *We appreciate your interest in understanding trends within the amateur radio community and acknowledge the important contribution that volunteer assessors and representative bodies make to the sector.*

This stance makes it extremely difficult for any entity at the club, state or national level to derive an understanding of trends, performance and future planning within the Amateur Radio sector. We see no reason why this routine data should not be

shared with the Amateur sector at regular intervals, as happens now with sporting, immigration, education and industry training sectors. This appears to be a manufactured problem that would be easy to resolve.

Certainly, it is going to be difficult to submit meaningful responses to the ACMA exam systems consultation if the very data needed for such assessments is concealed from public view.

RASA receives enquiries from prospective candidates on where to go for exams. We can steer them to the Assessor listing on the ACMA website, but this is extremely limited as a high portion of the assessors would appear to be inactive and many do not indicate the area that they serve. A candidate in say Roma or St. George may have to contact 20 different assessors in the hope of finding one who is both active and within 300km of their location. Search results are limited. A search by a particular town will not show results of available assessors a few km away in the North South East or West of that town, or over a nearby state border.

There is considerable room for improvement and this process begins with the provision of general statistics about our sector. However, RASA is doing what it can.

Please read the article *"Trends in Amateur Radio 2026"* in this edition of QTC, which is based upon information that is presently within the public domain.

Elsewhere in this August 2026 edition of QTC, there's an account of the recent VL2LH expedition to Lord Howe Island, Paul wrote an informative treatise on planning and executing events, "Tell 'em they're dreaming", a look at what's on offer in traditional brands versus newcomers to the market, the announcement of RASA's Annual General Meeting, along with a reminder for members to renew their membership.

Along with all of these are the regular columns Dits n Dahs, DX Happenings, Contesting and more.

QTC is Electronic.

QTC Magazine is produced and distributed by The Radio Amateur Society of Australia, RASA, and is produced entirely by volunteers. QTC can be read online/on screen, or downloaded as a PDF for reading on your favourite device.

All links provided in QTC are live, and you can click or tap them for further action or reading. We will run your Club's activity promotions free, and in return ask for a post event write-up for publication.

QTC is available free to anyone and everyone. No membership or affiliation is required. Similarly all of RASA's resources are free and available to everyone.

Check out the **RASA Website** to view all of our resources, or look through the promotions throughout QTC.

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia Inc.
BEING HEARD IS IMPORTANT
vkradioamateurs.org

When Is A Tower Not A Tower?

By Ian Jackson VK3BUF

A key ingredient of an Amateur Radio station is the antenna. They come in all shapes and sizes, but a universal truth is that big is good and high is very good. For non-Amateurs, those who regard peak adventure as a murder paperback or viewing kittens on YouTube, their home is a haven of conformity. At least from the outside.

The cut lawn, the straight lines of their driveway, the powder coated letterbox, all paint a picture of the ideal home in the ideal street. That someone may wish to install sixteen metres of steel latticework and aluminium extrusions in the airspace above their home is an affront to all that they hold dear. They cannot accept that a neighbour has a different world view. They feel obliged to impose their vision of suburban uniformity upon others around them. Herein lies the problem.

New estates often come with caveats insisting that the homeowner shall not erect an antenna above their roof. Councils across our fair land have shown the full spectrum of tolerance from '*Antennas are your hobby – go for it*' to the more confrontational: '*How dare you pollute the amenity of our skyline without first begging for permission*.'

What would the Council Say About This?
(image (C) RASA, Made by A.I.)

The devil is in the detail. If you have had an interaction with neighbours or councils attempting to limit the scope of your antennas and supporting structures, we'd like to hear your story. What was your solution? Did you model your antenna mast after the flagpole out the front of the council offices? Did you park an old Volkswagen Beetle in your backyard, insert a twelve metre steel lattice through the sunroof, then fill the interior with concrete and claim that it is an exempt mobile antenna? Please write to us and share your own experience.

In the state of Victoria many amateurs availed themselves of a commercially manufactured tiltover tower from the Nally company. These entered production in the 1970's and were a great option for Amateurs. No guy ropes needed, cyclonic wind ratings and with ten minutes of effort one person can lower the highest point of an antenna to eye-level. These were sold as a 13.7 metre tower, above which Amateurs added antennas of their choice. The 13.7 metre height was no coincidence. There is general state legislation that says that hobbyists may erect a tower up to 14 metres in height without the requirement of a planning permit. Regardless, we sometimes encounter bastions of conformity in many council offices that insist that such rules were guidelines only and that *they* get to say who can have a tower in *their* precinct and proceed add additional conditions of their own design.

Back in 1992 the GGREC club moved its tower from Dandenong to Cranbourne. It was complicated because the land is managed by the nearby Cranbourne Racecourse under special legislation. A planning permit was initially granted, but with conditions attached. The council wanted trees planted near the tower and the permit would be revoked if '*anyone'* complained. The club objected to these conditions as there were already plenty of trees around. They protested that a permit

subject to a future complaint was not a permit at all. These conditions were subsequently removed from the permit.

At this point I do of course have to say that this article is of general interest to our readers and should not be regarded as legal advice.

The stage was set for conflict. Hobbyist vs City Hall.

In 2002 a major conflict ensued in the Melbourne Shire of Casey over a Nally tower. This went to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). A landowner claimed that his Amateur Radio tower was ancillary to his dwelling, being used for hobby purposes and therefore required no planning permission. This case had followed an application for planning permission, which the council had rejected.

The council expended considerable effort and money to thwart this VCAT hearing. Because:

(a) There was a covenant on the property title that said (paraphrased) that the owner cannot build anything but a house and a garage on that land.

(b) The facility did not meet the Code of Practice for Telecommunications in Victoria and

(c) It looked ugly.

The case is an interesting one because similar conflicts were taking place across the country. While the rules may vary, the arguments tabled here are common and the outcome of this case may help other Amateurs facing similar problems. Usually arguments are not often tested as deeply in law as they were on this occasion. Let's examine what happened next.

The Tribunal

Both parties expressed their positions. The Amateur began by explaining what Amateur Radio is and why the tower was an important part of his hobby and personal development. The council representative leaned heavily into the covenant on the land and that the tower was really a telecommunications facility, which placed it firmly under their jurisdiction to allow or deny.

It is very important to look at historical precedent before this case. There had been previous battles in Victoria where the right to a tower by an Amateur had been upheld.

The key decisions coming from those cases were:

(i) hobbies which may reasonably be conducted at home must be considered as adjunct of the use of a house for the purpose of a dwelling so that, provided hobbies can be carried out as a concomitant of normal residence, no town planning permit is required;

(ii) amateur radio is a hobby which may reasonably be conducted at home incidental to normal residence; and

(iii) no permit is needed for a radio mast which is an adjunct to a family hobby, recreation or education and not specifically excluded by the zoning.

Because of these decisions, the State planning scheme was amended to include this exemption:

A mast for radio transmission or reception in a dwelling that is any of the following:

- With antenna, more than 14 metres above the ground.
- If attached to a building, with antenna, more than 5 metres above the roof line.
- Including antenna, wider than 6 metres.
- Excluding antenna, wider than 50 centimetres at any point exceeding 3 metres above the ground.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder

It seems that the claim that a tower would be ugly was not closely considered at this tribunal. Possibly because it was too difficult to define what ugly actually means in law. Amateurs call their antenna installations many things, but ugly is not one of them.

Even the great Darryl Kerrigan once said, *"Power lines are a reminder of man's ability to generate* electricity*."*

Mind you he also said *"Look at the size of that aerial. That's a big aerial. What do you think? Add a bit of value?"*

The Covenant

The tribunal examined the restrictive covenant on the title and whether this would stop an Amateur Radio operator from putting up any kind of antenna. This is relevant today because many titles have restrictive covenants on antennas. The sitting member of this tribunal made an important ruling and it went like this:

> *Although under different legislation, which contains its own statutory definitions, such as the Building Act 1993, the radio mast may be defined as a building, it is not what would ordinarily be considered to be a building, although it would probably be considered a structure. As I have decided that the radio mast erected for the purpose of pursuing a hobby as a ham radio enthusiast is ancillary to the enjoyment of the dwelling on the subject land, it being part and parcel of the enjoyment of normal residence, I do not consider it to be a separate building on the land which would be prohibited by the restrictive covenant. In my opinion it forms part of the normal and ancillary residential appurtenances of a dwelling such as clotheslines, television antennas and swimming pools.*

This was a good outcome for the Amateur. Sanity prevailed. It meant that the council had only one remaining weapon of planning denial to pursue. They continued to claim that it was a Telecommunications tower and as such was under their planning jurisdiction.

Tower Without Glory

This aspect really got into the weeds. It was out with the dictionaries to decide what 'telecommunications' actually meant. If they could apply the word Telecommunications to an Amateur antenna installation, then the council had control. If not, then their case falls apart.

There was much discussion about whether a Dish antenna was a telecommunications antenna. A previous case had declared that a dish antenna intended to receive TV signals from India was part of a network and therefore a

telecommunications facility and therefore it was upheld that it required planning. The legal definition of a Telecommunications Facility was defined as:

> *Land used to accommodate any part of the infrastructure of a Telecommunications network. It includes any telecommunications line, equipment, apparatus, tower, mast, antenna, tunnel, duct, hole, pit, pole or other structure or thing used, or for use in or in connection with a Telecommunications network.*

The council claimed that the Amateur tower was a separate land use than that of the house as a dwelling. Therefore there were two separate land uses on this property.

The counter argument was that the Amateur was not using his land for the purpose of a telecommunications facility at all, but purely for the purpose of a dwelling. The purpose of the mast was to facilitate his enjoyment of the dwelling and pursuit of a hobby within his dwelling. The radio unit in his study relied on the mast erected in the side yard which acts as his antenna.

The council presented that Telecommunications was any means of communications via a guided or unguided electromagnetic energy.

The Amateur argued that while he used electromagnetic energy, it did not form a part of a system or network.

This debate raged on for hours and both sides provide examples and definitions, often contradictory. Ultimately it all came down to what the words 'network' and 'low impact facility' and 'system' actually meant.

The Decision by the VCAT Tribunal

On one hand it is appalling that so much time was wasted arguing word definitions. On the other hand, it was probably a good thing to flesh it out and fully define in law how Amateurs use their equipment. This was the outcome:

> *I do not think that this mast forms part of a telecommunications system or infrastructure, set up for the purpose of operating a telecommunications network. His is a stand alone piece of equipment designed to tap into electromagnetic energy to pursue his ham radio hobby.*
>
> *I am fortified in this view of the State Section of the VPP Format Planning Scheme (SPPF) which clearly put a 'telecommunications facility' in the realm of large scale networks, systems and utility services.*

The council lost and the tower stayed. A valuable win for the fellow concerned and for Amateur Radio sector in general. This does not mean that other councils won't try again in other precincts, but the arguments here were important ones.

Is Amateur Radio a Hobby or a Service?

I have always believed that Amateur Radio is a hobby. We are all individuals on a personal quest to communicate for leisure. There has been a push by many to refer to Amateur Radio as a *Service*, perhaps in a peculiar attempt to elevate our standing.

Whom Amateurs service other than ourselves is not apparent. We don't change anyone's oil. The days of Amateurs being recognised as some kind of backup civil disaster plan have long gone. For real emergency services to admit any such value would be an admission of failure on their part and it won't happen.

Referring to Amateur Radio as a *Service* is reckless. The above case only won because the Amateur maintained the distinction of calling it a Hobby. As long as it remains a hobby we have some latitude in law to support our position. If Amateurs persist in defining ourselves as a Service there is a real risk that the distinction that

separates us from networks and telecommunications operations will be lost. This tribunal showed that definitions of words do matter and that we must take care with how we refer to what we do into the future. This next example further reinforces this position.

A good Outcome is possible

Not all interactions with councils are filled with conflict. Back in 2005 another Amateur at nearby Langwarrin received an official letter from the Frankston Mayor which said:

> *A Town Planning permit is not required for a radio mast and associated antennae under the Frankston Planning Scheme provided it is used exclusively for hobby purposes. This is regardless of height or width.*
>
> *I understand that you may experience some opposition to the radio mast and antenna from your neighbours and this can be difficult for all parties concerned given that there is no planning control over such structures.*
>
> *I would therefore advise you to encourage you to do all that is possible to keep the mast and antennae to the minimum that is technically possible having regard to effective operation of your installation.*

Share your own Story

This was a good experience and proof that common sense can sometimes prevail. Now it is over to you. What is your tower story? It is important to share our victories…and our failures. Put some words together and let others benefit from your experience.

Send them to: **info@vkradioamateurs.org**

Welcome to A.R. Brochure

RASA developed the Welcome to Amateur Radio Brochure as a tool to promote the Amateur Radio hobby to those who express an interest at public events, hamfests etc.

When an Amateur engages with someone at one of these events, the brochure provides a takeaway for the person.

There is space on the brochure to place a mailing label with club contact information.

The brochures are free to clubs, however a donation to cover postage is greatly appreciated. Contact RASA by email to **info@vkradioamateurs.org**

Evolving Technologies
Becoming an Operator
Qualifications to operate amateur radio
Radio and Outdoor Life
Welcome to Amateur Radio
Where Curiosity and Creativity come together
Discover the tools and technology to Communicate Nationally and Around the world

NB: RASA lead the way with these brochures, forcing others to follow suit.

Rasa 2026 Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Radio Amateur Society of Australia (RASA) will take place on Saturday the 12th of September at 00:30 UTC, (10:30 AM AEST, 8:30 AM AWST)

From TODAY, August 13th, all committee positions are open for nominations.

If you want to consider becoming a member of the RASA management team, send your nomination to elections@vkradioamateurs.org before nominations close on August 18th, five days from today.

RASA management team are:

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Admin Secretary, General Secretary, and Committee Members (non office bearing)

Nominees should indicate their name, callsign and position/s that they seek.

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia

Date	Days before the AGM	Event
August 13	30	Committee position nominations open
August 18	25	Nominations close
August 22	21	A bulletin goes out to all members listing the nominees and their résumé's. If there are more nominees than positions, then a ballot is declared OPEN via email.
September 5	7	A financial report is distributed to all members.
September 10	2	The ballot closes and all material is examined by the Returns Officer. Links to the ZOOM AGM event will be sent to all members.
September 12	0	Saturday morning, 10:30am, the AGM commences via Zoom. The meeting will be recorded and uploaded to You Tube ASAP.

This is the timeline of events for the 2026 AGM

The full details of this process are available on the **RASA website**.

RASA is not a public company.

RASA, the Radio Amateur Society of Australia, is an Incorporated Association in the state of Victoria and registered as a National Representative Body with ASIC, which provides RASA with a legal standing in all states and territories of Australia. Its committee is presently spread over four states.

As in many previous years, we wish to thank Michael Van Den Acker VK3GHM for accepting the role of Returns Officer for 2026.

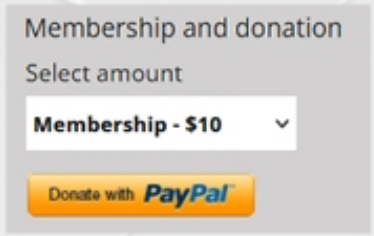
August is the RASA Subscription Month

- **Like what you read in QTC?**
- **Like what RASA is doing for Amateur Radio?**

To show your appreciation, please **Renew** if you are a **Member**, or **Join** us if you are new.

Only **$10 per year***... or donate a few dollars extra if you think we are worth it... it all helps.

Pay with **PayPal** from our website
https://vkradioamateurs.org/contact/
or **EFT** to **BSB: 633000 ACC: 165 937 442**
We only record Name, Callsign & Email address & do not share this info.



RASA is a not for profit organisation, run by volunteers.
All contributions go directly to supporting Amateur Radio.

- ***The QTC digital magazine***
- ***The RASA home Website***
- ***The QRM Guru website***
- ***The This Is Amateur Radio website***
- ***The free training books & publications***
- ***The free Amateur Radio brochures for Club promotion***

* If you have previously made a contribution in 2026, then you are already up to date

Resources for New Amateurs

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia
RASA
Foundation Level
Study Guide
V3 November 2025
Your Gateway to the
World of Amateur Radio
Amateur Radio provides virtually unlimited opportunities for you to explore the technical, scientific and social aspects of this truly global hobby
A Free Amateur Radio
Learning Resource
This multimedia learning resource has been developed by RASA and is provided free of charge.

Like all RASA resources, the FLSG is free, and we encourage you to share it with your club, friends and others who may be interested in becoming a radio amateur.

This resource is backed up by our other award-winning resources, including QRM Guru, the Welcome to Amateur Radio Guidebook, and VKRegs.

This resource is unique. Not only is it up-to-date with the latest information on the Class Licence, but it includes tailored instructional videos, links to useful websites, and extra “good to know” learning opportunities. All of this is backed up by a Knowledge Base with an integrated email-based helpdesk. So if you have feedback or questions, you can easily raise a ticket.

The FLSG is available HERE

The RASA Welcome to Amateur Radio Guidebook provides an introduction to our hobby for new Foundation class amateurs.

The book is published digitally. It contains many hotlinks to external websites with useful information.

It is available as an Acrobat pdf file suitable for reading on a PC or tablet. It can be printed if required.

Download the guidebook HERE.

VKFF National Get Together 2026

The 2026 VKFF National Get Together is on the weekend Friday 30th October to Sunday 1st November, in Albury, New South Wales.

The 2026 annual event for the Australian chapter of the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program includes:

- Friday evening dinner
- Saturday presentations, a raffle, and various displays
- Saturday evening dinner with a quiz and a guest speaker
- Sunday morning BBQ breakfast, antenna construction projects
- Sunday afternoon VKFF park activations
- Sunday evening dinner.

The guest speakers this year include Dave G4AKC, Sands VK9WX, and Chris VK3QB, a member of the recent VJ2L Lord Howe Island DXpedition Team.

Dave G4AKC

Chris VK3QB

Sandeep (Sands) VK9WX, VK4WXW

Displays

There will be displays by Icom Australia, Comtek, ex-military portable radios, Meshcore, and several others.

You Must Register

Prior registration is required to attend the Get Together. Walk-ups will not be accepted.

More information on the event, including cost & the registration process, can be found on the WWFF Australia website.

Where is Albury?

Albury is a city of almost 60,000 people located on the NSW side of the Murray River. Across the border is the Victorian city of Wodonga, with a population of around 48,000.

Above: Map showing the location of Albury, N.S.W. Map c/o Google Maps

DISTANCES BY ROAD TO ALBURY

Melbourne to Albury - 331 km	Brisbane to Albury 1452 km
Canberra to ALbury - 338 km	Sydney to Albury - 550 km
Adelaide to Albury - 858 kms	Perth to Albury 3405 km

Looking forward to seeing you at Albury.

Paul VK5PAS.

VKFF National Co-Ordinator

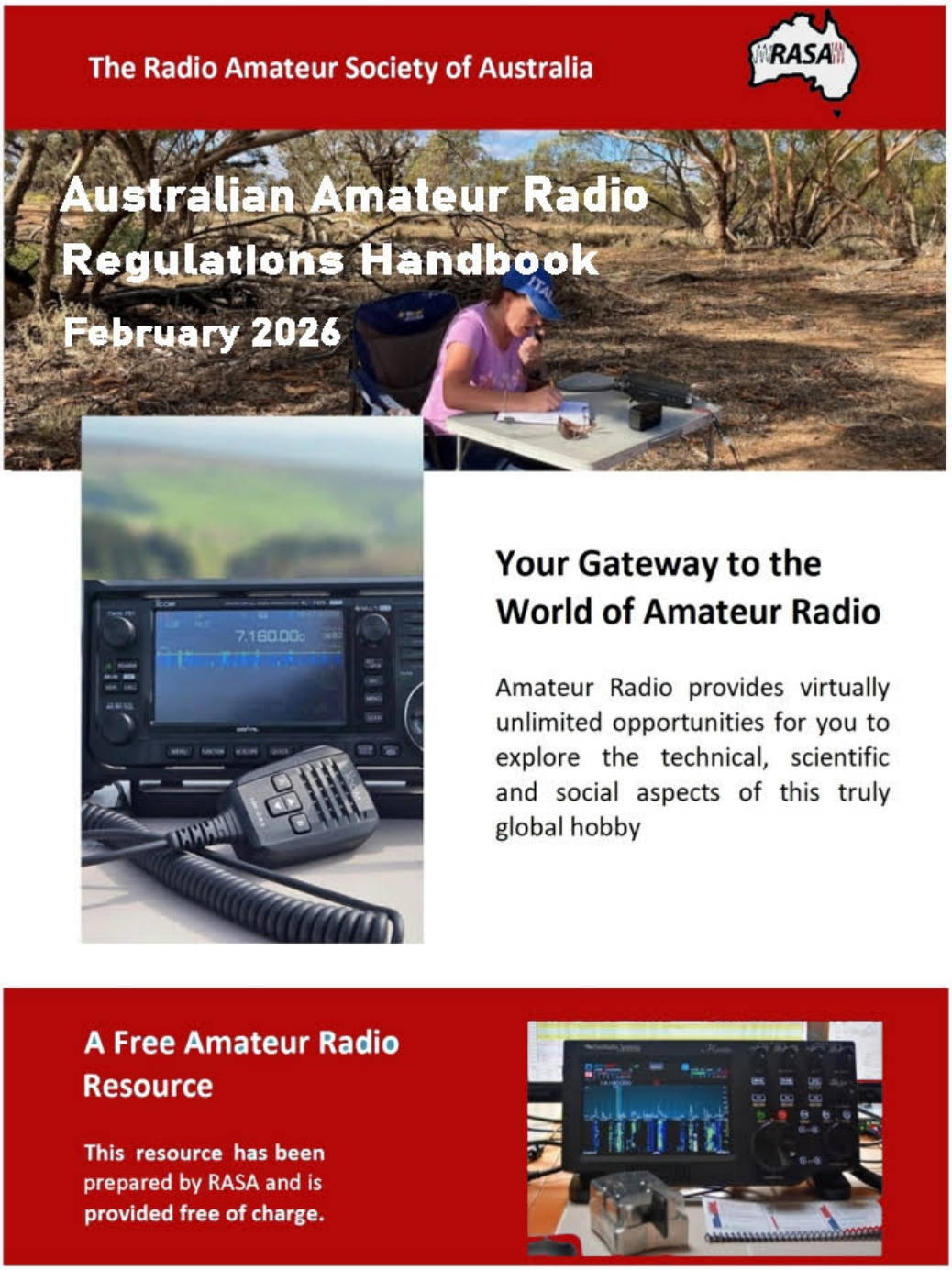
VK Regulations Handbook

The VK Regulations handbook contains all of the information you need to know to sit for the Regulations assessment set by the ACMA.

This handbook doesn't only tell you what the regulations are, it explains them in plain English.

The Australian Amateur Radio Regulations Handbook was compiled and is maintained by the Radio Amateur Society of Australia, and is available free of charge, either to read on screen, or to download as a PDF.

Update: VK Regs will be updated to include the ACMA's recent clarification on the "AX" prefix.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Regulations Handbook
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Your Gateway to the
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Amateur Radio provides virtually unlimited opportunities for you to explore the technical, scientific and social aspects of this truly global hobby
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VJ2L: Lord Howe Island DXpedition

And a Depressed Ionosphere

By Chris VK3QB

The last time we visited Lord Howe Island was pre-Covid, a team of just three operators; which sometimes feels like a lifetime ago. This time was very different with seven operators and four wives, it promised a stronger sense of social engagement, sight-seeing, and non-radio discussions, as well as, of course, an endless supply of challenging pileups and interesting openings to rare DX locations.

What we got instead was a masterclass in ionospheric misbehavior, antenna acrobatics, and the kind of technical improvisation that only happens when you're thousands of kilometres from home and the Sun (and weather) decides to throw a tantrum. But isn't that the beauty of amateur radio and DXpeditioning? You never really know what you're signing up for until the first CQ goes out.

From the moment our team touched down on Lord Howe Island, we all felt that familiar DXpedition buzz — the excitement of setting up the stations, getting the antennas erected, and the anticipation of the first contact, and the quiet dread that something, somewhere, would inevitably go wrong. And of course, it did. But I'll get to that.

Setting Up: The Joy of Simplification

Our equipment lineup was a thing of functional but technologically advanced simplicity.

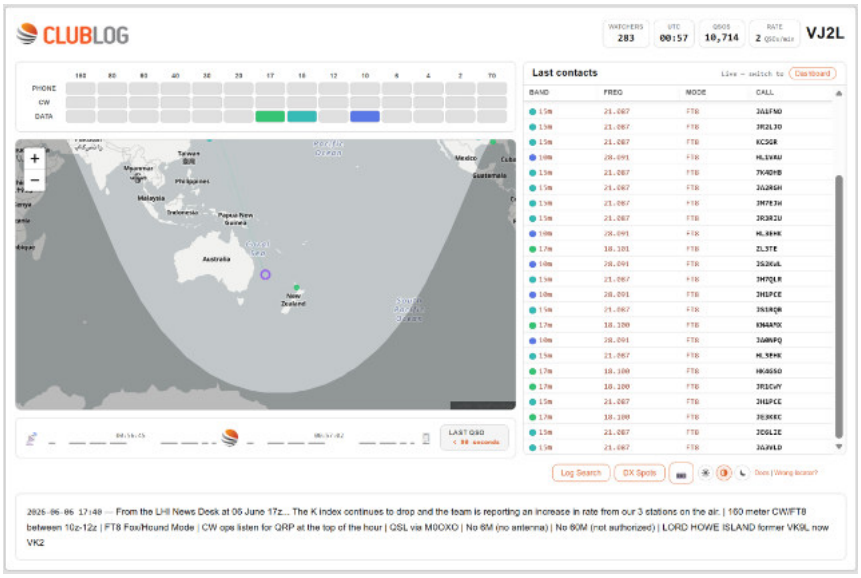
We had two FlexRadio Aurora 520M radios — compact, integrated 500 Watt SDR transceivers that looked like they belonged in a sci-fi movie. Each one packed a 500 Watt transmitter, SDR receiver, auto-ATU, filters, power supply, and network interface into a single 8.5 kg cube. As someone who has lugged traditional gear through airports, I can tell you, this was a whole new experience of convenience and logistical simplification.

The third radio was an IC-7000 dedicated to FT8 operation.

We built a three-radio networked station, each radio and computer tied into a local LAN. This gave us synchronized logging, remote control (even though we didn't use remote control), and the ability to coordinate band changes without shouting across the room. The Aurora's low phase noise, high-duty-cycle digital performance, strong

band pass filtering, and stable thermal design made it ideal for the kind of nonstop operation a DXpedition demands.

In a first for our team, Matt K0BBC had our three stations networked and up on Clublog Live as the first station got on-air. If you haven't used Clublog Live, take some time to check it out.



Once the radios were online, the waterfall displays lit up like Christmas lights. For a brief moment, I thought: "*This is going to be another fun-filled expedition on a beautiful sub-tropical island.*"

I was wrong. Both the terrestrial, and solar weather had other plans.

The Antenna Farm: Vertical Ambition Meets Horizontal Wind

Our antenna setup was designed to cover everything from 10 metres down to 40 metres, and to provide polarisation and physical separation, as well as propagation and signal angle arrival variation. The star attraction was the DX Commander Expedition vertical, a multi-element system that, when properly guyed, is a great DXpedition workhorse. We also deployed a 40-metre doublet, which — thanks to an MFJ-962 tuner — we tentatively planned to use on 80 and 160 metres if the opportunity arose. "*That's crazy*" you may say. But, it worked; far from efficient, but it yielded a couple of good sessions across the Oceania region. It was never our intention to activate the lower bands, but as conditions on the higher bands were so disappointing, it was good to have the fall-back.

The first day or so was calm enough. We tuned, tested, adjusted, and collectively admired our handiwork. Then the wind arrived.

Stepping outside on the third morning, the DX Commander was leaning at an angle that would make a structural engineer faint. A few hours later, the SWR went north, way north, and a quick inspection revealed the DX Commander was on the ground. Thankfully, Brenton VK5BJ and Olgierd VK5XDX got straight onto the case and wrestled it back into position while cursing about

guy ropes, pegs, soil moisture, and whether the island was actively trying to reduce our QSO count. Being a belt and braces kind of operation, an extra set of guy ropes were added to the antenna.

Similarly, the dipole antenna managed to lose an arm wrestle with the wind and Luke VK3HJ, Patrick VK2PN, and Chris VK3QB felt like we entered into a work-place negotiation with the weather gods to get the wire back in place and reasonably stable.

It would not be a complete account of the operation if I didn't recount the somewhat incredible and statistically unlikely raising of the dipole. When we were last on Lord Howe Island we availed ourselves of an unused commercial tower to hold up one end of our dipole. As is our habit, we used an arborist's *launcher* (think very large sling shot) to shoot a guide-rope over the existing (unused) antennas atop the 20 mere tower.

When firing the small lead-weight bag attached to a light guide rope up and over the antenna structure, it passed clean through a VHF folded dipole about 20 metres high. A perfect sky-hook for the end of an HF dipole. And a one in a million shot.

Well, we did it again in 2026. After two failed attempts to fire the lead bag high enough, the third attempt rocketed straight through the folded dipole. This was met with collective disbelief and much laughter; especially from Luke and Chris as we witnessed the very same *unlikely event* from our previous visit. If you focus the eyes you'll be able to spot our dipole insulator and support rope nicely threaded through the folded dipole atop the tower. Make that a two in a million shot.

These are the moments when you realise that DXpeditions are 30% radio, 30% engineering, 30% improvisation, and 10% good (or bad) fortune.

Propagation: When the Sun Declares War on HF

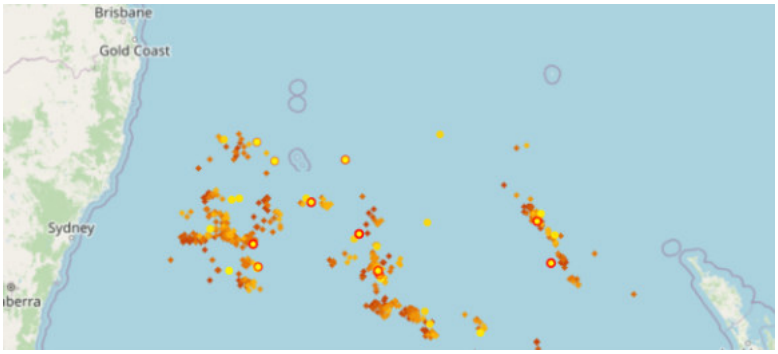
If you've ever watched the MUF collapse in real time, you know the sinking feeling that comes with it. During our operation, the MUF over Norfolk Island dropped to around 10 MHz mid-morning. Mid morning! That's supposed to be prime time for 15 metres and 10 metres. Instead, the ionosphere behaved like a tired intern who refused to lift anything above 30 metres. And as any DXer knows, 40 and 30 metres are not day-time long-haul DX bands.

Solar flares, elevated X-ray flux, geomagnetic storms — the whole buffet. The K-index spent more time in the "*don't bother calling CQ*" range than I care to remember.

On the 3rd June we woke to this news:

"***GEOMAGNETIC STORM WARNING:*** *NOAA forecasters are predicting strong geomagnetic storms this week as a rare 'anti-Hale' sunspot peppers Earth with strong solar flares. The X-class and near-X-class explosions are currently happening every 6 to 8 hours with CMEs expected to reach our planet beginning June 5th. Mid-latitude auroras are possible after the CMEs arrive. (Spaceweather.com)*"

To add insult to injury, over the next 24 hours we were subjected to extensive thunder and lightning and heavy squalls of rain. All three stations were forced to shut down at various stages through the night and early morning.



Ionospheric Physics: Why Everything Went Wrong

As radio operators, we are also propagation nerds. So naturally, we spent a lot of time staring at solar data and muttering complaints and protests at each other.

Here's the technical breakdown of the chaos:

1. D-Layer Absorption

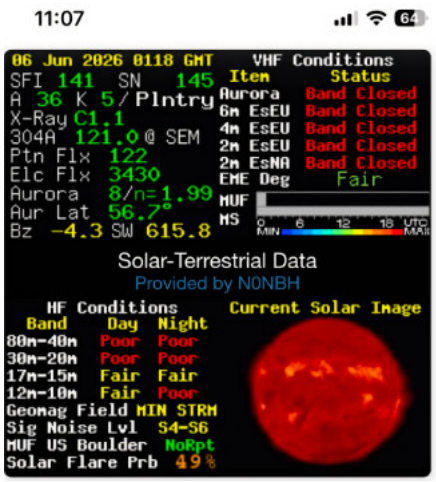
Solar flares increase X-ray radiation, which boosts D-layer ionization. The D-layer is the enemy of HF. It absorbs signals, especially on lower bands. During our operation, it was basically a sponge.

2. Geomagnetic Storms → F-Layer Depletion

Geomagnetic disturbances disrupt the F-layer's electron density. This reduces MUF and makes long-distance propagation unreliable. Our midday 10 MHz MUF was a textbook example.

3. Solar Storms

Storms caused heavy QSB, frequency-selective fading, and general misery. FT8's narrow bandwidth, error correction and low signal reliability saved us on more than one occasion.



On the 6th June we woke to more grand news:

"***GEOMAGNETIC STORM UNDERWAY:*** *A G2-class (Moderate) geomagnetic storm is underway on June 5th as Earth moves through the wake of a CME that struck earlier today. There is a slight chance that the storm could intensify to category G3 (Strong) with mid-latitude auroras. Overall, though, this event is less intense than forecast models predicted, and aurora sightings will probably be restricted to high latitudes.*"

Here's what it meant in practice:

- 20 metres: SSB and CW were nearly useless - with a few exceptions. I called CQ for 20 minutes once and got nothing but my own echo in the headphones.
- 15 metres: Mostly dead, except for occasional FT8 openings.
- 10 metres: Sporadic-E(?) saved us with a few North American FT8 contacts and perhaps a few CW QSOs
- 40 metres: Became our bread-and-butter band.
- 30 metres: Surprisingly reliable.
- Those reliable overnight openings on 15 and 17 metres were missing in action – night shift literally became a graveyard shift..
- 160 metres: Worked better than expected, thanks to the doublet + MFJ tuner combo.

FT8 became our lifeline. I know some purists grumble about digital modes, but when the ionosphere is behaving like wet cardboard, FT8 is less a mode and more a survival strategy.

7th June, 0300Z

We still enjoyed some good openings; it wasn't all doom and gloom. 20 metres starts to open. The VK3RASA RBN reports some EU stations. I get on the air for the first decent run since arriving here. For nearly two hours I enjoyed consistent two QSOs/minute into NA SP and EU LP. I happily handed the reins to Brenton at 0500Z, feeling a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction that only comes following a good run with a reasonably well-ordered pileup.

Australasia

HF Communications Warning

Warning (last updated 07 Jun 2026 05:25 UT)

SUBJ: ASWFC PRELIMINARY HF RADIO COMMUNICATIONS WARNING 26/53
ISSUED AT 2221UT/06 JUNE 2026
BY THE AUSTRALIAN SPACE WEATHER FORECASTING CENTRE.

Due to anticipated geomagnetic activity beginning mid 8-Jun UT day, HF radio propagation conditions are expected to become degraded. Maximum usable frequencies in the Australian region may become depressed by up to 20% from late 8-Jun into 9-Jun.

DEGRADED HF PROPAGATION CONDITIONS EXPECTED
FROM 08-10 JUNE 2026
IF COMMS DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED TRY A LOWER FREQUENCY BAND
A MORE DETAILED HF WARNING WILL FOLLOW IF DEPRESSIONS EVENTUATE.

Were conditions finally improving? If so, not for long.

The sun subjected us to two CMEs and seven solar flares over the course of the twelve days of operation.

Operating Strategy: Adaptation Under Fire

Every day, we adjusted our operating strategy based on real-time propagation analysis, RBN reports, and on-air experience. It felt like playing chess against the Sun — and the Sun was cheating.

We prioritized:

- SSB whenever conditions were up to it
- CW at all other times, subject to propagation
- FT8 during the regular poor conditions
- 40 and 30 metres for reliability
- Opportunistic 160-metre operation
- Band agility to constantly test for the highest band
- Running three stations to maximize coverage
- Leveraging the Aurora's SDR capabilities for weak-signal work

Despite everything, we still managed just shy of 25,000 QSOs, and given the conditions, that felt like a miracle.

Island Life: The Human Side of the Chaos

When the bands were dead — which was often — some of us explored Lord Howe Island. We hiked, swam, flew, and even befriended a local wood hen that visited our operating site. This bird had no idea what HF propagation was, but it seemed deeply invested in our success. Some of the team were convinced it was our emotional support animal.

There's something surreal about alternating between battling the ionosphere and admiring a sub-tropical paradise. DXpeditions have a way of blending technical frustration with natural beauty.

In another first, every day at about 1630 local we met in the common room or courtyard for a happy hour. It was a great chance to tell stories, vent frustrations and share experiences from the various excursions many of us enjoyed. A selection of photos illustrate the non-radio activities and views of Lord Howe Island.

Conclusion: A DXpedition Defined by Resilience

Looking back, VJ2L wasn't defined by perfect conditions or effortless pileups. It was defined by resilience — technical, operational, and emotional. We used modern equipment, engineered robust antenna systems, adapted to brutal propagation, and still delivered thousands of contacts to operators around the world.

We fought the wind. We fought the Sun. We fought the MUF. We still had fun and managed a fair QSO count — not because conditions were good, but because we were stubborn.

Lord Howe Island challenged us, but the team rose to the occasion. And in doing so, we proved once again that amateur radio is equal parts science, engineering, improvisation, and fun. And DXpeditions add detailed planning into the mix.

One of our main objectives was to compete in the DX Marathon and we made 162 points; not a bad effort for a twelve day operation with such challenging propagation conditions. As a team, we worked well and had a thoroughly enjoyable two weeks.

The Team: VK5XDX, K0BBC,
VK6CQ, VK3HJ, VK5BJ, VK3QB, VK2PN

The FlexRadio Aurora proved to be everything promised. It was quick, easy and light to pack, and without it, we could not have carried all our gear to the island on the Dash-8 aircraft. We would either have had one less station, or been forced to send gear on the ship two months in advance, and at considerable cost. Set-up was quick

and it’s only then you realise all the cables, accessories and additional weight that isn't required when the FlexRadio Aurora forms the centrepiece of the DXpedition.

In closing, we hope everyone who needed us was able to get us in the log. Special mentions go to Dick N9EEE and Phil VK3VB who both earned the 1,000 Miles per Watt Award for working VJ2L. Dick was running 5 W and Phil 800mW; great work from both ops to persevere and get our attention.

And of course, thanks to the wives who joined us and made the two weeks that little bit more social and enjoyable.

Finally, thanks to FlexRadio for loaning us two FlexRadio Aurora 520M radios. To

10 REASONS TO JOIN
DX MARATHON 2026!
365 DAYS. ALL BANDS. ALL MODES. ONE PASSION: DX!
1 ALL YEAR LONG!
DX Marathon keeps you active and chasing DX every single day of the year!
2 EVERY NEW DX COUNTS!
Work as many countries and CQ Zones as you can. Every Entity and each Zone counts once – it's all about the "new ones"!
3 ALL BANDS, ALL OPPORTUNITIES!
From 160m to 6m including 60m, 30m, 17m and 12m. More bands – more chances – more DX!
4 ANY MODE YOU LOVE!
CW, SSB, Digital – they all count! Special awards for CW, Phone and Digital top performers.
5 BECOME A BETTER DXER!
You'll follow propagation, openings, grey line, DXpeditions, clusters and band conditions like never before.
6 EVERY DAY CAN BRING A "NEW ONE"!
A rare country or a challenging CQ Zone can appear anytime. That's where the real thrill begins!
7 YOU DON'T NEED A BIG GUN!
Everyone can participate! Set your own goal and enjoy the challenge with what you have.
8 COMPETE WITH YOURSELF!
Beat your previous score, improve your result year after year and be proud of your progress!
9 EARN YOUR ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATE!
From 2025, every participant receives a Certificate of Achievement with total score and performance highlights.
10 DX MARATHON MAKES DX... FUN!
Every new DX = +1 point!
One more reason to get back on the air every day!
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Trends In Amateur Radio For 2026

Every two years or so it has been important to examine operator trends in Amateur Radio.

We have some data for 2026 but this has some continuity issues when comparing totals with 2024 data. The information shown in this report has been obtained from public domain sources.

We can examine the total number of callsigns issued of each license type, Foundation Standard Advanced and the data shown here will correctly reflect operator upgrades from Foundation to Standard or from Standard to Advanced. It should be noted that comparisons with pre-2026 can only be approximate. There are several reasons for some disparity.

The transition to the Amateur Radio Class licence included the change that callsigns are now issued for life with no ongoing fees. Accordingly, there will be operators who have drifted out of the hobby but remain in the ACMA database as active operators. Furthermore there will be operators who have passed away and this event may or may not have been conveyed to the regulator. As a result, there will be some deceased persons that continue to be listed as being 'active'.

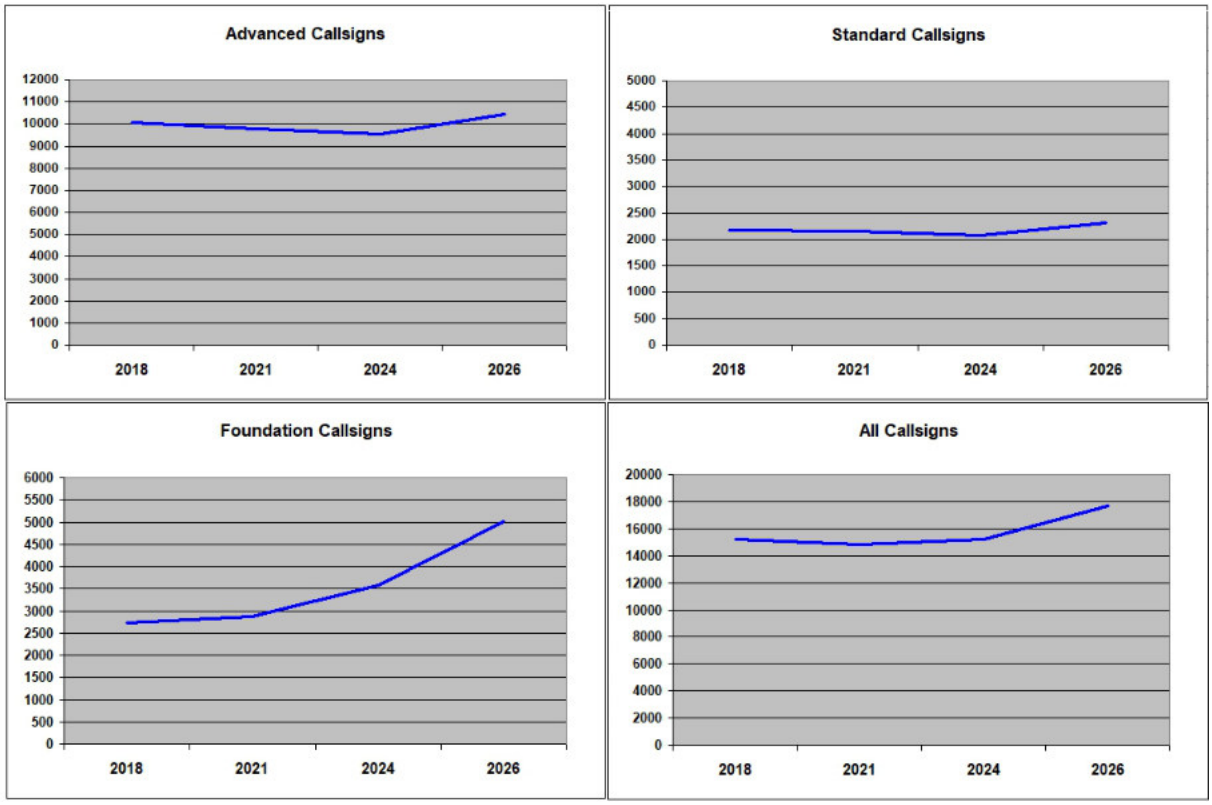
There is another factor that will influence callsign statistics. Many Amateurs have applied for and received a second callsign. This can happen for several valid reasons. Perhaps an alternate callsign is preferred for contesting. In some instances a family legacy callsign being held for a son or daughter yet to qualify for a license of their own. Readers should therefore be aware that the increase in callsign registrations from 2024 to 2026 is not entirely attributable to a growth in the total number of operators.

The ACMA have indicated that they will reach out every (approximately) five years to the known point of contact of every Amateur to see if (a) they are still interested in retaining their callsign or (b) still alive. This has not yet happened, but when it does, perhaps in 2029, we should see the release of many callsigns back into the 'Unassigned' pool and the total number of callsigns in use will fall.

The following table shows the total number of Assigned Callsigns as of April 2026. Note that 2x1 Contest callsigns have been excluded, as they are temporary in nature and 2x1 operators already have a separate Advanced callsign.

Region	Foundation	Standard	Advanced	State Totals
VK1 (ACT)	276	47	351	**674**
VK2 (NSW)	1314	623	2869	**4806**
VK3 (VIC)	1219	611	2779	**4609**
VK4 (QLD)	922	467	1969	**3358**
VK5 (SA)	527	218	962	**1707**
VK6 (WA)	534	205	1021	**1760**
VK7 (TAS)	195	102	425	**722**
VK8 (NT)	17	30	110	**157**
VK9 (Ext terr)	3	0	7	**10**
VK0 (ANT)	0	1	3	**4**
Totals:	**5007**	**2304**	**10496**	**17807**

The following charts show comparisons in callsign growth from 2018 to 2026. Again the 2026 data shows unusual growth because few have relinquished callsigns when departing the hobby and more operators currently have multiple callsigns. This growth is likely to flatten somewhat with the next round of data collected.



The Australian Assessor Network

The ACMA is supported by volunteer Assessors throughout Australia. This applies to all candidates seeking to acquire or upgrade an operator licence. Many Assessors do this in conjunction with their local club and some conduct assessments as individuals. Some Assessors advertise their services on a fixed day each month, however most assessments are carried out on-demand. Meaning the Assessor is not active unless contacted by a candidate, whereupon an examination date is set. Currently the ACMA updates their exam papers every three months. This means that a candidate who has failed any assessment cannot repeat that test for 3 months. The ACMA applies the three month embargo rule even if exam papers have been refreshed a short time after an exam event has taken place.

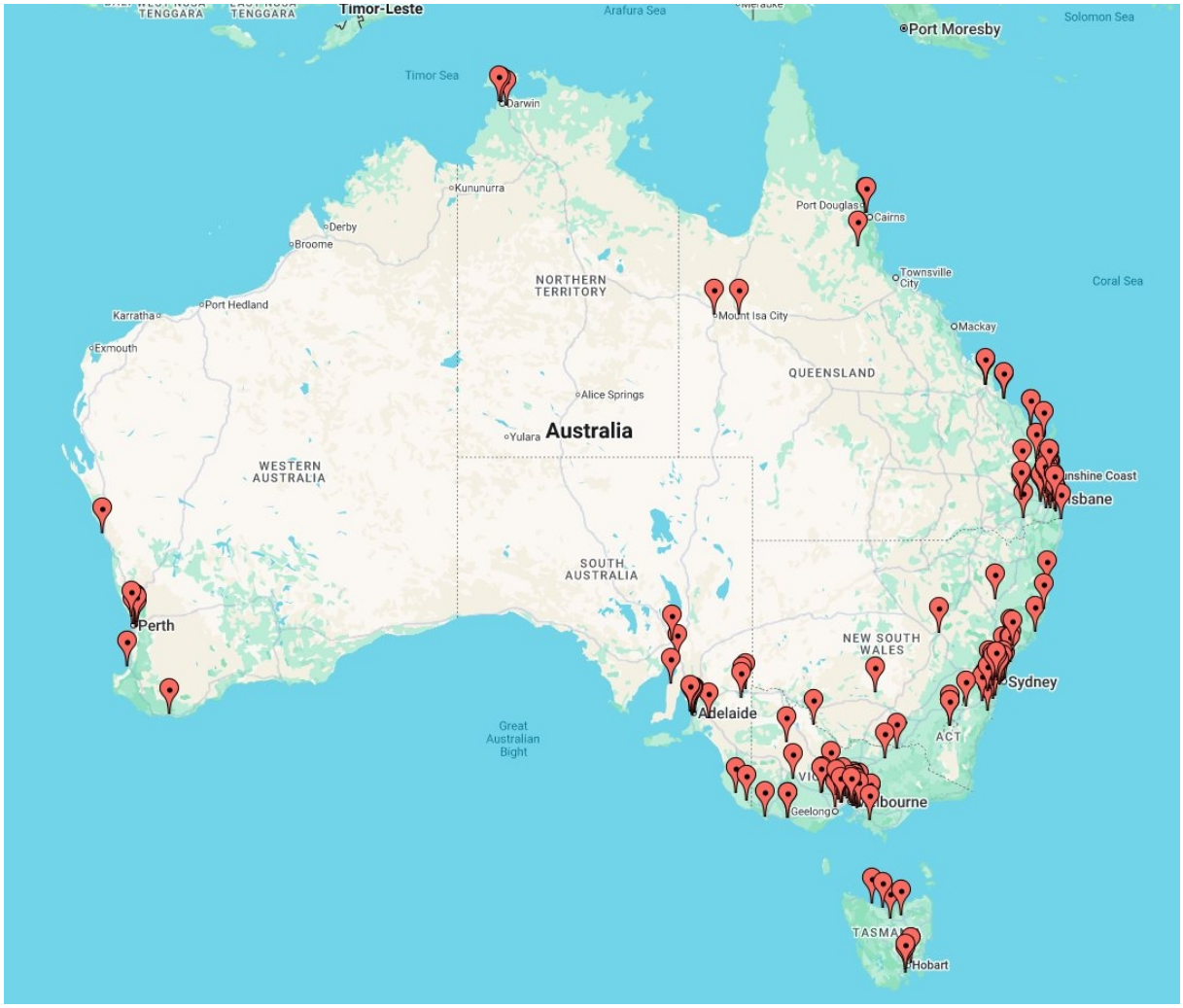
The ACMA has an on-line search tool to locate an Assessor in their region.

The ACMA Assessor finder is **Here**.

As of May 2026 there are 233 Assessors in Australia. As referenced in the editorial, the ACMA does not provide any data on how many of these Assessors are active in this role. Some of these exam events, particularly within clubs, are attended by two or three Assessors, but when results are uploaded to the ACMA, there is only one Assessor identified for each event. This may falsely indicate to the ACMA that some Assessors *appear* to be dormant, even though they are making an active contribution to the exam process.

Below is a distribution map for authorised Assessors within Australia, but the map does not include assessors who have not provided their locality to the ACMA. This

presents an ongoing problem for candidates seeking an examiner. For example: A candidate in Victoria performs a search, but can not find an Assessor near their home town. They must then individually contact up to 17 Assessors who have not listed any locality and ask if they happen to be nearby. It remains the responsibility of each Assessor to inform the ACMA of their service area and contact details. Unfortunately quite a few have not yet provided that information.



There are two types of Assessor. General and Specialist. Specialist assessors are permitted to conduct '*Remote Assessments'* This means exams can be conducted remotely on-line under a special set of guidelines. Candidates should be aware that the ACMA Assessor register does not always indicate which assessors have this specialist capability. Again it is up to the candidate to ring around many assessors and ask them individually about their Assessor Status. For many candidates, the best way forward would be to contact their nearest Amateur Radio club and ask them for exam event advice.

As we can see from these maps, there are high levels of concentrations around state capitals but there are many areas served poorly or not at all. A person growing up in say Broome W.A. would be 1,500 km from the nearest listed assessor.

These state and territory distribution maps have been compiled to highlight these areas in need of additional support. We would encourage any Amateur with an Advanced license who happens to reside in one of these poorly serviced areas to contemplate becoming an Assessor.

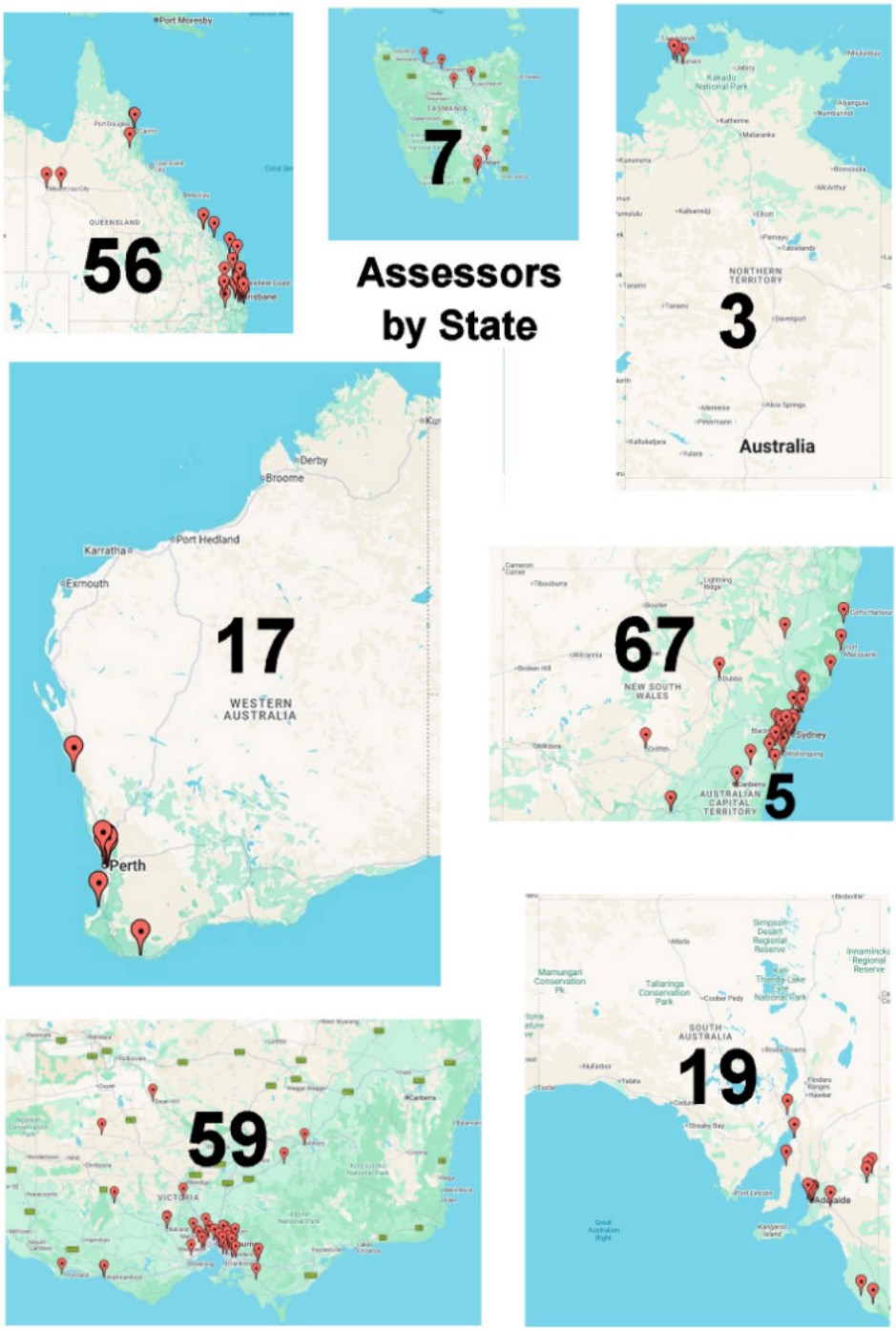
We would also encourage existing Assessors to update their location profiles with the ACMA.

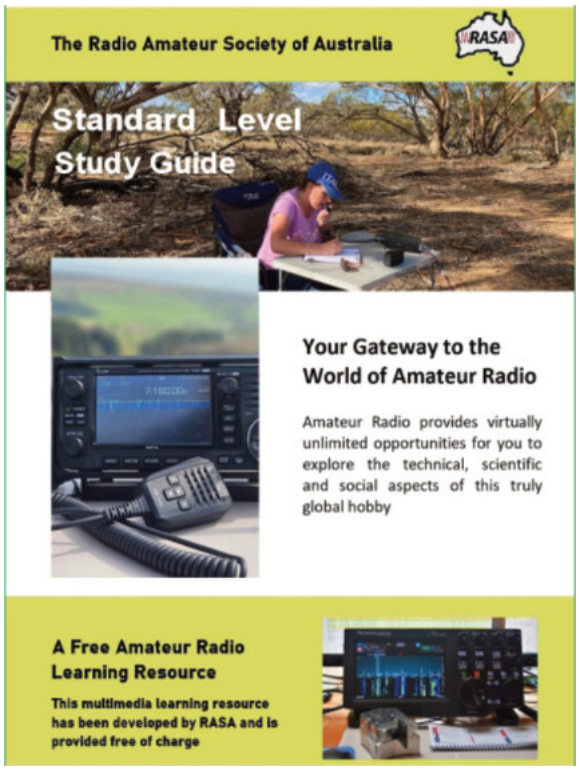
The ACMA has a page dedicated to the process of becoming an Assessor:

https://www.acma.gov.au/amateur-radio-accredited-assessors

Free advertising for Training & Assessments

RASA produces free study resources for Amateur Radio candidates. Free listing space is reserved on the rear page of the **Foundation Level Study Guide** (FLSG) for any club or individual providing training or assessment services. This manual has been downloaded thousands of times. Clubs may benefit by listing their educational activities in this space.

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Your Gateway to the World of Amateur Radio
Amateur Radio provides virtually unlimited opportunities for you to explore the technical, scientific and social aspects of this truly global hobby
A Free Amateur Radio Learning Resource
This multimedia learning resource has been developed by RASA and is provided free of charge

The Standard Level Study Guide is under development.

We have some volunteers, and more are welcome:

- To write chapters. It's not difficult because we follow the syllabus.
- Proofreaders play an important role. Tpyos are sneaky.
- Artwork - are you handy with art and graphics?

To join the team, **EMAIL** us and tell us what you're interested in helping with

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RASA

Radio for the Curious & Creative

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia

Dits n Dahs

By Chris VK3QB

Welcome to Winter, and don't we know it in the southern states. On a positive note, at least some of the old reliable DX paths are opening again and even local conditions have shown signs of some improvement. Of course, as we travel further from the solar peak openings on the higher bands are becoming more elusive and unpredictable; so make the most of the openings when they appear.

I'll keep some regular content in this column each month; to serve as a reminder for regular readers and as new information for those just joining us. As always, please email me with any news, stories, or anecdotes that may be of interest to other readers.

And I'm still keen to receive photos and a few words about your favourite key.

Mastering Morse Zoom - Bernd Länger VK2IA - 17th August

This month I'm thrilled to be interviewing Bernd Länger VK2IA. Bernd has many years of experience as a CW operator, successful DXer and contester. Most recently he participated in the World Radiosports Team Contest (WRTC26) in the UK where he and his team-mate Jacky ZL3CW put in a great effort.

Pop the date and time in your calendar and join me in what should be an inspirational and interesting insight into Bernd's on-air experience, CW philosophy, and journey to WRTC participation.

Details Here

Morse With Purpose Award

On the 27th July, Stan ZL3TK and I launched the **Morse WIth Purpose Awards Program**. This is an exciting new event offering participants the chance to earn badges over a 12-month period, ultimately achieving Bronze, Silver, or Gold status within the program. Read more about it later in this column.

RandomGram on 25th July

What a great turn-out. We had 6 operators from VK and ZL participate and really made a splash; batting well above our average. Thanks to Oceania Team members, Stan ZL3TK, Chris VK3QB, Peter VK3WOW, Mish ZL2MXD, Colin VK2DVA, Garry VK2GAZ, Allan VK2GR.

Team	Mbrs	Avg	Total
Sideswiper	4	558	2233
StraightKey	10	194	1942
Bug	5	131	657
LICWClub	8	69	548
Oceania	6	79	475
ZenkinClub	4	21	84
CherokeeARS	1	42	42
CWOps	1	9	9

Special mentions go to Stan ZL3TK (237) and Peter VK3WOW (123) with great scores. Mish ZL2MXD wins the unique prize as being a ZL station operating as an SWL from the UK (visiting his mum), and logging 7 RG exchanges on a WebSDR located in VK. So, don't let lack of a radio shack stop you.

Let's see if we can beat 475 points next month.

Read more about RandomGram later in this column, and try to join us in the August RandomGram event. Email me if you have questions or want to chat about it.

Morse with Purpose Award

Hopefully you've already heard about the great new awards program. In essence, it's designed to provide CW operators with 12 different activities to work towards earning the MWP Award; bronze, silver or gold, in a 12-month period.

The 12 activities are:

Education

Complete a CWops Academy Class or LICW Course

Out and About

Activate 10 or chase 50 valid SOTA, POTA or WWFF sites using CW only

Contesting

CWops Test Bronze, Silver or Gold Award – URL https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/ or one entry in a major CW contest per year making minimum of 100 QSOs. e.g. CQWW, CQWPX, FOC, CWO, OCDXC (possibility for 2 badges)

RandomGram

Six entries in a 12-month period earning a minimum of 20 points per entry or one entry with 100 points or more (possibility for 2 badges) **Website.**

DX-Marathon

A DX-Marathon CW Entry with 70 points or more ref **www.dxmarathon.com**

Cold War

Copy five CW numbers stations accurately

DXCC

Achieving 75 points or more in CW DXCC in a calendar year or 50 points in CW DXCC QRP in a calendar year.

Straight Key

Demonstrating competent sending with a straight key at 15+ wpm with a simple test

Bug

Demonstrating competent sending with a bug or cootie at 20+ wpm with a simple test

Ragchew

Complete 20 ragchew CW QSOs. A ragchew QSO is a minimum of 15 minutes in duration.

Telegram

Initiate ten and answer ten CW messages, composed and recorded on Prescribed Telegram Forms, to demonstrate competence in handling formal traffic.

Enigma

Initiate five and answer five encrypted Enigma CW messages (on-air) or eight if on-line using a standard Wehrmacht, 3-rotor machine, and recorded on formal message forms for auditing.

As you can see, something for everyone. To learn more watch the **YouTube channel**.

Or read about it **here**.

If you have any questions, send either Stan ZL3TK or myself an email. Our addresses are on qrz.com.

CW Academy

Semester 2 for CW Academy has finished up with students completing Beginners and Fundamentals classes.

The general feedback has been very positive and as long as there is demand CW Academy will continue delivering classes at times suitable to the VK and ZL communities.

Already I've heard from students who are reporting amazing improvements in their code and the enjoyment and satisfaction that accompanies this success.

"The course itself is superb, one learned the characters almost effortlessly. "

"Overall I have enjoyed the course and can easily see the improvements I have made undertaking this course. Chris, thanks for all the help and motivation behind the course."

If you'd like to learn the code, or simply want to polish up your existing skills, CW Academy has the runs on the board, having taught over 11,000 students worldwide. The program works very well. To learn more visit **CW Academy.**

New resource to help CW operators

Since last month a couple of new articles have been posted and more are in development. Keep an eye on this website if you're keen to pick up some hints and tips. You can check it out **here**.

It also includes a YouTube channel with the recording of the interviews I've been conducting since January 2026. If you have any questions or feedback about the site please send me an email.

Upcoming Events

Monday - Medium Speed Test (MST)

Great practice at around 20 - 25 wpm

Times: Every Monday: 1300 - 1400Z and 1900 - 2000Z

Every Tuesday: 0300 - 0400Z **Info HERE**

Tuesday night – CQ QRS net – 80, 40 & 20 metres. CW segments of the bands. Typically, 12 - 18 wpm **Website HERE**

CW Test (CWT)

Great practice but a bit manic speed wise. Mostly 28 wpm - 40 wpm

Times: Every Wednesday: 1300 - 1400Z and 1900 - 2000Z

Every Thursday: 0300 - 0400Z and 0700 - 0800Z **Info HERE**

NZ Net, which has been operating daily on 7.030 MHz at 0800 UTC, changes to 3.535

MHz at 0900 UTC for the duration of the southern Winter, effective Sunday 5 April. The net welcomes all check-ins, with or without traffic.

RandomGram

Date: 3rd or 4th Saturday of the month @ 2200 UTC **Info HERE**

A Different Kind Of Activity: Randomgrams

By Chris VK3QB

Now we have VK/ ZL/JA activity hours which enable us to concentrate our activity, rather than scan the bands over the full 24 hour period. 0700 - 0900 UTC- which is a good time for 40 and 80 metre propagation locally.

If you haven't tried RandomGram yet, give it a go; this next event will be RG#46 with the date to be announced.

RandomGram is a unique Morse code event that prioritises accuracy over speed. Unlike standard contests where operators exchange predictable information like serial numbers, RandomGram requires participants to accurately exchange groups of random characters.

Key Features

- **Accuracy-Focused**: Scores are determined entirely by how accurately random character groups are transmitted and received.
- **Even Playing Field**: Because the character groups are random, operators cannot "guess" or use software to auto-fill information, making it accessible to operators of all skill levels.
- **SWL Participation**: Shortwave Listeners (SWL) can participate by monitoring and logging exchanges they hear between other stations.

How to Participate

1. **Get Your Unique Code Groups List**: Before an event, you must email your call sign to **RG+owner@groups.io** to receive a list of registered random code groups. Make sure you include a note that you're part of team Oceania.
2. **Call CQ RG** During the designated event time, call CQ RG or answer others on non-WARC HF bands.
3. **The Exchange**: Send a real signal report (RST) and **one** random code group from your TX List. RSN is the better reporting protocol in these circumstances; with this protocol you provide the other operator with an insight into the challenges you are facing, thus he can tailor his sending to optimise readability.
4. **Logging**: Log the code group you receive from the other station. You can

contact the same station multiple times on the same band (no *dupe* restrictions). Just make sure you either call CQ or work another station before logging a *dupe*.

5. **Submit your log**: Email your log listing of only received groups, no callsigns, signal reports or times, to the organiser (RG+owner@groups.io to have your accuracy verified and results published)

To give you an idea of how it I works, I ended up logging eight RG QSOs with three different stations (ZL3TK, N1FG & VK2DVA) and received the following 5-letter groups.

A7N67 9RIB6 SJM1D 6O113 UPTNK KJ4VJ GQXKZ GC777

Each group was sent at least twice; in fact, so deep was the QSB with ZL3TK in one QSO, I must have asked for four or five repeats; but I'm confident that I copied the group correctly.

Once confident I had copied the group correctly I sent a "R R QSL QSL TU"; some operators send back what they have copied asking for confirmation. There's no hard and fast rule, so do whatever works for you to ensure you have the group copied correctly.

Next time I hope to log many more RG QSOs, see more local participation, and work more DX ops. Also, Stan has created the *Oceania* team, so if you do participate, please let the organiser know you'd like to join the team when you register.

So, give it a go; the RG Event usually runs for 24 hours, but you only need to put in as much time as you want. Skeds can be arranged via the SKCC Sked page.

For current event schedules and detailed rules, you can visit the **RandomGram Groups.io page** or follow updates from Drew Kowal AF2Z on the **QRZ Forums**.

RASA
Needs Your
Support
The Radio Amateur Society of Australia
Foundation Level Study Guide
QRM.guru
Resolving interference for Amateur Radio
QTC
Your Gateway to the World of Amateur Radio
Welcome to Amateur Radio
A Guidebook for newcomers
RASA PRODUCES HUGE RESULTS FROM A TINY BUDGET.
Foundation Level Study Guide
QTC Magazine
QRM Guru,
VKRegs
Representation to Government
A Free Amateur Radio Learning Resource
Click Here to Donate or Pay membership
RASA relies on member fees and donations, so that we can offer our resources free to everyone. We're inviting you to sign up or renew your membership, or simply donate. You can do this at our website: vkradioamateurs.org

This innovative activity was successfully launched on 27 July to encourage a far wider range of on-air CW activities than the average Amateur Radio Operator usually experiences.

There are currently 20 registered participants. It's a low pressure project designed to run in12-month periods, yet extremely powerful because it caters for everyone from reluctant raw beginners to persistent paddle-pushers.

One can earn up to fourteen badges, Boy-Scout style, in twelve categories over twelve months. This ensures continuous opportunities for CW activity and encourages the achievement of one's personal goals. Accumulated badges then result in Awards, bronze, silver and gold. Within the categories available in MWP are a range of DX contests, keying skill tests, traffic handling, RandomGram and even cold war-style transmissions, yes indeed, something for everyone!

Visit **THIS WEBSITE** for more information on the activity and how to participate.

VK3RASA
REVERSE BEACON NETWORK

Located in Drouin West, Victoria, Australia.

RASA
The Radio Amateur Society of Australia

The Reverse Beacon Network is a revolutionary idea. Instead of beacons actively transmitting signals, the RBN is a network of stations listening to the bands and reporting what stations they hear, when and how well.
For a loser look, visit the **RBN Website**.

ZL News

By Philip Sharp, ZL1PSH

AREC Changes its Logo

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) announced in its 16th July QSO Bulletin that the AREC logo had been recently changed. The change was made to enable AREC to emphasise through its branding that AREC's main role is to provide emergency communications and to ensure the AREC logo better encapsulates the modern-day form of AREC.

The change to the logo was in three parts

a) The word 'amateur' was removed because 'amateur' in modern New Zealand English has negative connotations and the AREC would like to show publicly that its volunteers are experts in emergency communication.
b) The word 'radio' was removed because AREC's volunteers support with more than just radio.
c) The word 'comms' was replaced by 'communications' because 'comms' was seen as slang and hence not professional.

The June Report

Below is a summary of some items in the June report by the NZART President Warren ZL2AJ. The full report is available **HERE**.

NZART
New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters Inc.

Elections

Up to now, the elections for NZART positions have been held by postal vote. The elections early next year will be held electronically. The NZART councils hopes the change from postal to electronic voting will increase the election turnout compared to recent elections.

Instead of using existing election software such as Election Bubby, the NZART council is working with an NZART member to design an electronic platform to host the elections.

Membership Forum

During the recent NZART conference, the NZART president held an in-person membership forum. The forum was an opportunity for the NZART council to hear from NZART members and for the council to share views with the NZART members present.

In his June report, the NZART president listed the following as some of the issues raised during the forum. The items in the list are quoted directly from the report:

- We have many outbound communication modes, which needs an overall plan. However we need a better inbound communication plan. How do we want members to communicate with us?

- We don't sell our success stories well. We have had many success stories but our membership – as well as non-members have no idea what we have achieved.
- What are our values? And what is our value proposition?
- How to we support our branches? What are our branches looking for?

STEM

The president said he thought radio amateurs do not understand well what amateur radio is. He then said he believed amateur radio is not a communication hobby but a STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) hobby that uses radio to produce the outcome of communications. The president concluded that changing the emphasis from communication to STEM meant we had to change how we present the hobby to potential new members.

Visits

The president has started visiting NZART branches. The goal of these visits is to discuss with branch members the benefits and strengths of the NZART and to support branches that are struggling to see the benefits of belonging to NZART. Branches who would like a visit from the president or NZART council member were invited to contact NZART to see if a visit could be arranged.

Mentoring

A topic I (Philip) have heard discussed many times is the need for a mentoring scheme for newly minted hams. In his report, the president suggested having short masterclass type courses such as pre-recorded video lectures or in-person training sessions. NZART members were invited to send in suggestions and feedback about possible courses.

Struggling Branches

In a recent ZL News column, I reported how the number of NZART members had increased over the last two years. The increase was small, but an increase none the less.

This increase is partly countered by the fact, as reported in the minutes of the May 29 meeting of the NZART council, that four NZART branches have fewer than five members. Five is the minimum required by the NZART constitution.

The NZART council will be contacting the four branches to see in what ways, if any, NZART can help the branches increase their number of members to five or more.

VK3RASA
REVERSE BEACON NETWORK
Located in Drouin West, Victoria, Australia.
RASA
The Radio Amateur Society of Australia

Letter to the Editor

Dear QTC

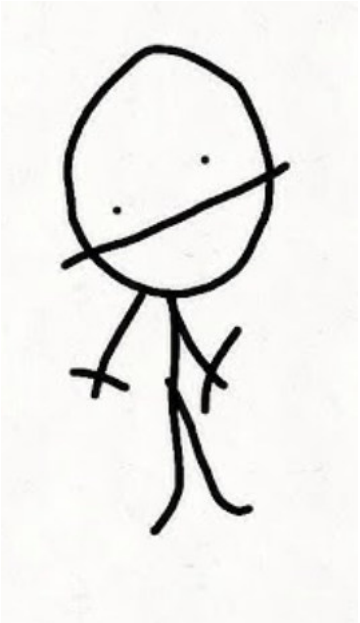
I enjoy reading the QTC Magazine. I find most of the articles refreshing and informative, and I especially like your candour about your dealings with the ACMA. But here comes the “however”.

However, I find your use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for generating images a bit disappointing. It’s not called”AI Slop” for nothing. Isnt there someone who can do real artwork for you?

Please keep up the good work.

Grumpy
(Name and callsign witheld by request)

Dear Grumpy



Thanks for writing to QTC. Good feedback is always useful.

Yes, we do sometimes resort to AI images here at QTC. There are a few reasons why, but the short answer is that all of us here at QTC are hopeless when it comes to creating a decent drawing by hand.

I personally failed Stick Figures 101 at primary school, and have grown progressively worse as the years roll on.

Creating an image with AI can be quite rewarding, as I can express an idea or a set of ideas, and the AI chats along politely while making suggestions to improve the image.

So for me, it’s more about using an image drawn by AI that has been derived from something in my head, which is better than not having an image at all.

After all, a picture IS worth 158 words, isn’t it?

Ed.

And another...

> Dear RASA
>
> An issue I am interested in is Higher Power privileges for Australian Advanced qualification holders under the Class Licence. Can you advise if the RASA has had any success in making representations to the ACMA re- the Higher Power issue?
>
> Regards,
>
> Graeme VK5GG

Hi Graeme

Thanks for reaching out to RASA asking about the high power privileges for Advanced Level Amateurs in Australia.

The question of high power has been bounced around the court for a very long time now. The regulator, the ACMA, has shown a strong, and to some unreasonable objection to Amateurs in Australia being granted higher power privileges.

RASA has made several approaches, including during the consultation for the most recent updates to the LCD for Amateur Radio. We have provided technical information, including a research paper by Dr Andrew Smith, which was looking for any recorded evidence of harm to operators or the general public caused by Amateur Radio installations. Unsurprisingly, no evidence of such harm was found.

The response from the ACMA, paraphrased, is “we don’t want to talk about it, we’re busy with more important work”.

RASA’s position is that in the absence of any technical reasons that would make it unwise to allow Amateurs to operate with higher power, and the fact that Australian Amateur Advanced Radio operator qualifications are equivalent to the CEPT Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate (HAREC), with many of the countries using the CEPT standard allow high power operation, there is no valid excuse for not granting high power in Australia.

RASA will continue to lobby the ACMA. If all Amateur Radio societies in Australia would exert the same pressure, the ACMA may have to change their position.

Kind Regards

Bob VK6POP

VP RASA, Editor QTC

Tell ‘em they’re dreaming!

By Rob Nicoll – VK3LOL

I’ve run the trusty IC-208H mobile for coming on 20 years now, never skipped a beat. But it wasn’t cheap. Around AUD$600 if I recall, and for 2006 money that’s a decent bit.

I’d been considering expanding the capabilities of my mobile for the last 5 years, giving the ID-5100 a bit of side eye thinking that keeping air-band and gaining a second VFO and digital might be nice but never pulled the trigger. In recent years I’d thought they’d surely replace the ID-5100 and I’d get that radio instead.

Well.. it’s replaced.

The ID-5200 has now cleared FCC certification, and preliminary pricing has it at around $1000… USD! That’s Just shy of AUD$1500 at the time of writing. My best guess is we’ll see it launch for ~ AUD$1299 – AUD$1499… maybe more with Australia tax?

Too rich for me to even consider, and preliminary online commentary seems to agree.

All considered it’s not feeling like a lot of radio for the money.

You're still essentially looking at FM and D-STAR DV on 144/430 MHz.

Let’s give up the idea that DSTAR is special, it’s using the older AMBE vocoder while the rest of the world is on AMBE2+ and the slight uptick in micro controller requirements for digital operation don’t justify a sharp premium. ~$1400 for a mobile rig is a hard sell.

And don’t get me wrong, I love the idea of digital, but not when it locks me into 1 particular mode in a hobby where experimentation can be a significant part.

I can change TX/RX bandwidth as well as a variety of other parameters on other modes, but can’t change any encoding settings for DSTAR, 2400 bps for voice, 1200 for forward error correction, 1200 for slow data. Don’t like it, then get a hobby where you get to experiment with your gear… oh… wait… that’s us.

This is fine in the commercial world of black box operating where spectral efficiency is critical.. not in ham radio though.

And lets talk about proprietary lock-in. Sure in theory DSTAR is open if we exclude the fact that the voice competent of it is not… How much of DSTAR is done without voice though?

And then the inter brand mode rivalry… the first brand to offer DSTAR/DMR/Fusion ++ all in 1 rig with a sensible price point would sell like hotcakes.

All those modes CAN use the one VOCODER (I checked!, AMBE2+ can run backward compatible with AMBE)… so why not?

I'll tell you why… Icom wouldn't want to be seen dead supporting Yaesu's digital and vice versa.

And we the users suffer for it.

And the crazy thing is the brand that offers a rig to work with the competitors mode will likely GAIN sales for offering the user the capability.

But I digress.

Ultimately one could make plenty of excuses justifying the price if they wanted to, but what we should be doing is expecting innovation and competition from the big brands.

For example the Chinese gear is rapidly improving year on year. Wasn't long back the AUD$30 shipped Baofeng UV-5R was a great unit.. basic, and earlier models RF questionable but now we have the Quansheng UV-K5 for a few dollars more with dramatically improved UI and ability to run custom firmware.

The Chinese DMR world is incredible with more processing power in hand we're seeing custom firmware where satellite passes are shown on screen on the radio!

Icom wouldn't dare let fingers under the hood on their rigs, nor would they take user input on their firmware (I've tried!).

And you, the reader might not want this, but the hobby should at least have the option right? If you can't fiddle under the hood do you really own it?

Outside of a shiny colour LCD innovation is lacking ultimately.

For example I've also had my eye on the VGC VR-N7600

Clever thing, screen on mic, no need to mount a head anywhere, Android app, and with a little work the controls for it can be accessed from an existing in-car android auto touch screen, with the Bluetooth audio for it coming through the car's sound system and optionally pausing your music or muting your radio when the squelch opens.

These may be words of a broke man wailing on a keyboard.. but is there a point at which price gets too rich for whats on offer? Too much for the few advancements?

That will do, back to collecting cans.

73, VK3LOL

QTC Ads

QTC welcomes advertisements from suppliers of Amateur Radio and related equipment and services. We appreciate the financial support and set our rates to ensure every business can afford to advertise.

Rates are as follows and are per issue.

Advertisers are also invited to make a regular monthly (or one-off) donation to RASA in place of a fixed advertisement fee per issue. Contact info@vkradioamateurs.org to discuss.

Advert size	**Price**
¼ page	$30
½ page	$50
Full page	$95

QTC and RASA reserve the right to reject any advertisement we believe does not meet community standards or may misrepresent the offering.

Payment must be made in advance to our bank or PayPal account.

Contact the RASA team by email to set up your ads in QTC.

General Information:

- Graphics should be around 200 DPI in resolution, and not significantly larger than you expect them to appear on the page
- If supplying text and graphics, provide them separately. Alternatively you may provide the completed work as a PDF (easy option).
- QTC pages are A4, (210 x 297mm) with a 25mm margin all round. Images may be extended beyond the margins when there is no free text elsewhere on the page.
- QTC will include a Table of Contents entry for your advertisement, linked to the page containing your advertisement.
- Where a link to your website or email is provided, we can include hot links to those.

QTC is usually published at the end of the first full week of the month.

NORTHERN CORRIDOR RADIO GROUP (NCRG)

VK6ANC • VK6NC • VK6NE

Hosted by the Northern Corridor Radio Group Inc.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S HAMFEST 2026

BUY • SELL • SWAP AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Licensed Operators • SWLs
Beginners • Makers
Electronics Enthusiasts

EVENT FEATURES

- Amateur Radio Equipment
- Buy • Sell • Swap
- New & Used Gear
- Antennas & Accessories
- Electronics & Components
- Club Displays & Demonstrations
- Food & Refreshments Available

EVENT DETAILS

DATE:	30TH AUGUST 2026 SUNDAY
TIME:	9:00AM – 12:00PM
VENUE:	CYRIL JACKSON RECREATION CENTRE 53 Reid Street, Bassendean WA 6054
ENTRY:	$7.00 ENTRY FEE Kids under 16 FREE

MAJOR RAFFLE PRIZES

OVER $3,400 IN PRIZES TO BE WON!

1ST PRIZE

1st PRIZE – VALUED AT **$2,000**

$2,000 voucher or store credit to spend at your choice of:

ICOM COMMUNICATIONS · ANDREWS COMMUNICATIONS · COMTEK RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

The voucher may select their preferred supplier at the time the prize is claimed, subject to the supplier's branded terms and product availability.

RAFFLE TICKETS & INFO: https://rafflelink.com.au/hamfest-raffle-2026

2ND PRIZE

2nd PRIZE – VALUED AT $925

ICOM ID-52A PLUS

VHF/UHF Digital Handheld Transceiver

- 0.61inch Colour & Full Dot Matrix
- Bluetooth® Connectivity
- GPS Positioning
- Colour Display
- IP67 Waterproof

Includes various supplied accessories from the manufacturer. No prizable alternatives are.

3RD PRIZE

3rd PRIZE – VALUED AT $360

ICOM IC-T10

VHF/UHF Dual Band FM Handheld Transceiver

- SW RF Output
- VHF 136–174MHz recv/d
- UHF 400–520MHz recv/d
- FM Broadcast Receiver
- Up to 11 Hours Operating Time

Includes various supplied accessories from the manufacturer. No available to substitute are.

For product: icomjapan.com.au/products/IC-T10/

4TH PRIZE

4th PRIZE – VALUED AT $150

$150 COMTEK RADIO VOUCHER

Redeemable through Comtek Radio Communications Australian

The voucher may be used towards the purchase of

RAFFLE TICKETS & INFO VISIT: https://rafflelink.com.au/hamfest-raffle-2026

• KEEP AMATEUR RADIO STRONG •

Club Support

RASA supports Amateur Radio Clubs in various ways. Our supports and resources are provided free, and there is no requirement of membership or affiliation.

RASA's interest is "what is good for Amateur Radio".

Does your club conduct courses and exams for Amateur Radio Qualifications?

The Foundation Level Study Guide is structured around the syllabus set by the ACMA for the Foundation level qualification. This electronic publication contains live links to instructional videos and other supporting information. The FLSG is available as a PDF download, or to read on screen. The FLSG is FREE to everyone.

The Introduction to Amateur Radio Guidebook contains a lot of useful imformation for newcomers to the hobby, and perhaps even those returning to it.

RASA will publish your club's provided contact information in the Foundation Level Study Guide, and on the RASA website. Your club must provide the information, we will not harvest it.

Is your club planning something in the public space?

RASA has developed a brochure called "Welcome to Amateur Radio". This brochure contains the sort of information that you're likely to tell a member of the public that you engage in a conversation. Giving the brochure to the person reinforces that information, and give the person a means of following up.

The brochure has a space on it where you can affix a label containing club contact information, meeting place and times etc.

These brochures are available free from RASA on request. Although the brochures are free, a donation to cover postage would be appreciated.

Contact RASA by email to info@vkradioamateurs.org

RASA will talk to your club

If physically practical, a RASA team member can visit your club to talk about RASA

If a visit is not practical, and after all Australia is a huge place, we can do a presentaton to your club via ZOOM.

Similarly we can have a presence at Hamfests, again where practicable.

Radio for the Curious & Creative

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia

Advertise your Club Activity in QTC.
It's free.
Hamfest
COMING SOON
We will also print your club's courses and exam dates as provided by you.

Contesting

What's Coming Up

August

15-16 Remembrance Day Contest (WIA)

29-30 ALARA Contest Details and rules **HERE**

29-30 World Wide Digi DX Contest (FT4 and FT8 Modes) Rules **HERE**

29-30 SCC RTTY Contest Rules **HERE**

September

5-6 All Asia SSB Phone. Rules **HERE**

12-13 WAE - Worked All Europe. Rules **HERE**

Alan VK4SN maintains a contest calendar **HERE**

Will You be having a go at the RD Contest on 15th to 16th August?

I will. Although I'm not what you'd consider a hard line competitive contester, I like to have a go. Since moving from a 2.2 hectare property with large trees to a 450 square metre property, I simply do not have the space to erect a selection of antennas. Likewise, having disposed of the four wheel drive vehicle, going portable is a different story altogether.

Even so, I will have a go, and see what shakes out. You should have a go too. Although it's a 24 hour contest, you don't need to slug it out for the whole 24 hours. You can do it in as many chunks as you like within the start and finish times.

An added dimension is the ability for three entrants to work as a team. Your effort is weighed up both as an inividual station and as a team.

VK BUDGET QSL CARDS

Custom designed QSL cards - 300gsm, 0.31mm, 140 x 90mm, colour, double-sided and matt print.

Prices start at $70 for 500 QSL cards, designed, printed and air shipping.

*Larger quantities are available.

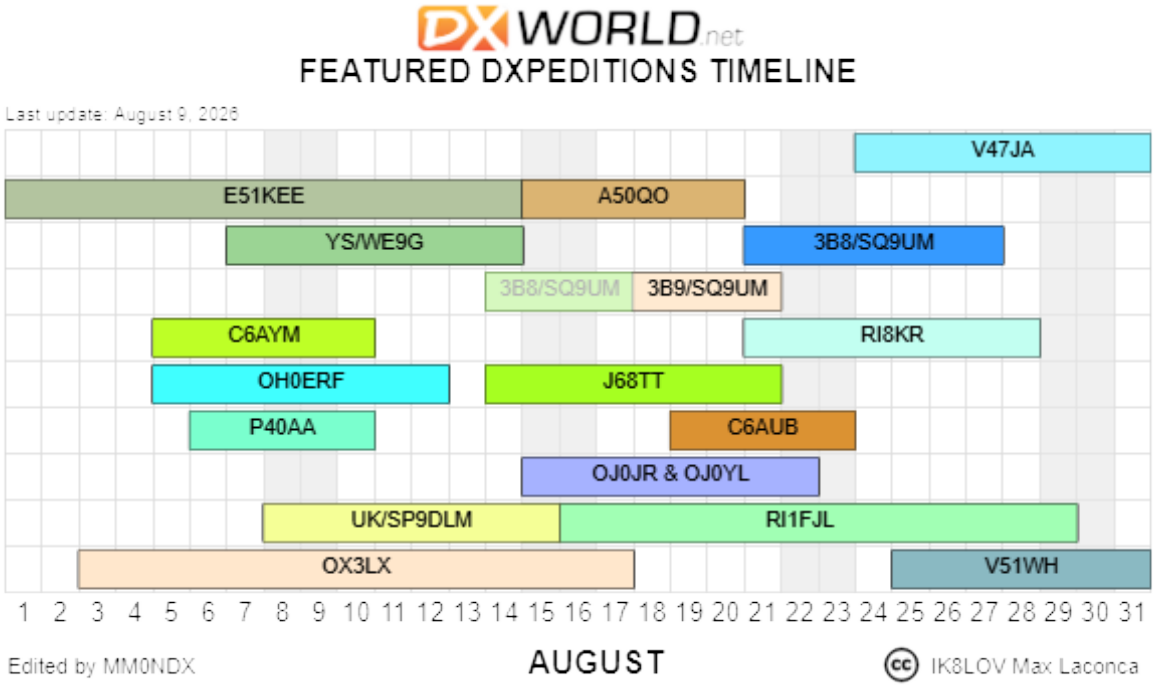
Checkout Eham Reviews at: VK Budget QSL Cards

For more information contact:

Graeme VK5GG at graememorgan72(at)hotmail.com

DX Happenings

Images and information sourced from DX World.



Following is a sample of DXPeditions coming up. More HERE.

This November, eight young operators from the United States, Lithuania, and Malawi travel to Christmas Island (IOTA OC-002) — one of the Indian Ocean's rarest entities — to plan it, build it, and put it on the air themselves. Max Freedman (N4ML) leads the team; veteran DXpeditioners Gregg (W6IZT) and Glenn (W0GJ) are along strictly to advise. In partnership with YOTA — Youngsters On The Air — we hand young hams real responsibility on a real expedition, and then get out of their way. Full details HERE.

Our team: Rolando 9A3MR (Team leader), Zrinko (Zik) DK8ZZ (co-leader), Mladen 9A2NA , Frane 9A3CJY , Kristijan 9A4WY and Livio 9A7Y will be active from Solomon Island (OC-047) using a special callsign H49A.

Information on QRZ, and the **Website.**

The team has been held up in Murmansk and expects to arrive in Franz Josef Land in the middle of August.

Full information and updates **HERE**